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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,595	03/16/2006	Koichiro Kano	8062-1033	7278
466	7590	01/02/2008	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			POPA, ILEANA	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET				
2ND FLOOR			ART UNIT	
ARLINGTON, VA 22202			PAPER NUMBER	
			1633	
			MAIL DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			01/02/2008	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/560,595

Applicant(s)

KANO, KOICHIRO

Examiner

Ileana Popa

Art Unit

1633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 15-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. Claims 15-34 are new.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 15-18, 23, 24, 29, and 30, drawn to a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into osteoblasts.

Group II, claim(s) 15-17, 19, 23, 25, 31, and 32, drawn to a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into myoblasts.

Group III, claim(s) 15-17, 20, 23, 26, 33, and 34, drawn to a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into chondrocytes.

Group IV, claim(s) 15-17, 21, 23, and 27, drawn to a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into epithelial cells.

Group V, claim(s) 15-17, 22, 23, and 28, drawn to a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into neurocytes.

3. The inventions listed above as Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the inventions lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The technical feature linking the inventions of Groups I-V appears to be transdifferentiation of adipocytes into different cell types.

However, Park et al. (Bone, 1999, 24: 549-554; Applicant's IDS) teach a method of transdifferentiating adipocytes into cells with an osteogenic phenotype exhibiting markers of osteogenesis (Abstract, p. 550, columns 1 and 2, p. 551, column 1, p. 553, column 1).

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of Groups I-V does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2 because it does not constitute a contribution over the prior art.

4. The inventions of Groups I-V are distinct because they are drawn to methods that require different compositions for practice and that result in distinct outcomes.

Therefore, these inventions require separate searches in the patent and non-patent literature and a search and examination of anything more than one of the above inventions would be a burden for the Examiner.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required

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because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02),
restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Ileana Popa whose telephone number is 571-272-5546.
The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am-5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Joseph Voitach can be reached on 571-272-0739. The fax phone number
for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the
Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should
you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a
USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information
system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ileana Popa, PhD

Ileana Popa
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